



MINUTES

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

March 29, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Nancy Boettger,
Chairperson
Senator Eugene Fraise

Representative Willard Jenkins,
Vice Chairperson
Representative Paul Bell
Representative Jack Drake
Representative Chuck Gipp
Representative Libby Jacobs
Representative Paul Scherrman

MEETING IN BRIEF

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- I. Procedural Business.
 - II. Committee Discussion.
 - III. Future Meetings.
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I. Procedural Business.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Boettger at 7:50 a.m. in Committee Room 24 of the Statehouse and was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

II. Committee Discussion.

Julie Livers, Director, Legislative Information Office, reported that she met with representatives of the Department of Economic Development and Iowa Sister States regarding improving communications relating to visits by foreign officials. She stated that the response at the meeting was very positive and that she would continue to work in this area.

The Committee discussed the need for a list of "dos" and "don'ts" relating to customs and dietary restrictions of various foreign countries to be compiled and distributed to members of General Assembly. It was suggested that some of this information could be made available on the Internet.

The Committee discussed the need to develop a form for providing information on foreign visitors prior to the visitors' arrival at the Capitol. The Committee discussed the possibility of developing protocol information to provide to foreign visitors. The Committee discussed the possibility of making an announcement on the tote board in each chamber regarding foreign visitors. The Committee requested the Legislative Information Office to draft a form and a letter which could be sent by the Committee to other governmental and private entities requesting information regarding upcoming visits by foreign visitors.

It was suggested that gifts made available through the Legislative Information Office should be made available to people other than members of the General Assembly. Ms. Livers mentioned her desire to incorporate the state seal on some of the gifts offered by the Legislative Information Office and the Governor's Office's denial of her request to do so.

The Committee discussed the possibility of consulting with a protocol expert. Representative Jenkins stated that Representative Brunkhorst knows a retired military protocol officer who could be consulted. It was also suggested that Iowa State University has a protocol expert who could be consulted.

It was suggested that the topic of international relations be covered in new legislator orientation meetings. The Committee discussed the need for each chamber to have an international travel budget.

Chairperson Boettger stated that the Committee should discuss many questions regarding a recently announced visit to Taiwan by members of the General Assembly. She stated that the Committee could not discuss the upcoming visit since such a discussion needs to include Senator Black who was not present at the meeting. Chairperson Boettger identified the following questions as issues to be discussed:

- ◆ Is the visit an official visit?
- ◆ Who is the contact person?
- ◆ Are there official gifts for the visit?
- ◆ Will there be a head of the delegation?

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- ◆ Will other states be sending state officials?
- ◆ Will there be evacuation insurance?
- ◆ Is this a safe time to be visiting Taiwan?
- ◆ Does the federal State Department know that the State of Iowa is sending state officials and is the federal government sending a delegation?

The Committee was notified of the upcoming visit of students and faculty participating in "International Students Day 2000" on Thursday, April 6, 2000.

III. Future Meetings.

Chairperson Boettger stated that the next meeting would be scheduled during the week of April 10, and that members would be notified when the meeting is scheduled.

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